

# A DIALOGUE betwixt JACK PRESBYTER and his MASTER, Concerning P O P E R Y.

JACK.

**O** Dear! O Dear! O lack a day! O lack a day! What shall I do? What shall I do?

Master. Why, how now Jack, what's the matter that thou art in this passion this morning?

Jack. O Dear! O Dear! O lack a day! O lack a day! We are all undone. Popery! Popery! Popery!

Master. Why, what of Popery? prithee what's the matter?

Jack. O Dear! Popery is breaking in upon us.

Mr. Go you fool, is this all thou blubber'st and cry'st for? dost thou know what Popery is, that thou art thus frightened at it?

Jack. O Dear! O Dear! No, I know not what it is; I never saw it in my life: But our Preacher last Sunday told us it was a terrible Beast with Horns; And I have heard the Ministers in their Pulpits thunder against it most terribly; And they bid us be sure to take care of it, for it would worry us, and eat us all up. And, O lack a Day! It is just now going to over-run the Nation.

Mr. Why really Jack it is not so formidable a Monster as thou seem'st to make it; And therefore prithee leave thy bawling.

Jack. I make it! What do ye tell me I make it? I make nothing of it, but what the most Learn'd and Reverend Clergy make it; And if They make they know not what on't, it is none of my fault; I tell you I never saw it in all my life, but as They have Painted it, and that is the ugliest thing that ever Mortal beheld; and I would not see it for all the world; Therefore pray good Mr. Dr. use all your Art, and Conjure it down; Keep it out of the way for Heavens sake, let it not appear whatsoever you do, let us not see it.

Mr. Nay, but prithee Jack see it, I'll stand by thee, and it shall not hurt thee.

Jack. Shall not hurt thee did you say? O Dear! O lack a day! Our Parson, (and he's a Learn'd Man,) told me, for sure, if ever I saw

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it I was certainly undone; it would but open its mouth, and I should have no power but to run into the very jaws of it, and it would swallow me. O dear! the Parson says, if it can but open its mouth, it will swallow Thousands at a time; that it has run away with whole Nations.

Mr. On my Conscience I believe thou art distracted; why what a bawling and roaring dost thou make for thou knowst not what; I tell thee, if thou didst but see this Popery in her own colours, her own dress, and hear her speak her own Language, thou wouldst not be half so frightened at her.

Jack. I shall be much the better indeed to hear her speak her own Language; For if all be true that our Parson tells us, 'tis a Language that no bodie understands, 'tis Latine; therefore what should I be the better to hear it? It would make me distracted to hear a Fellow prae an hour together, and I not understand one word what he says; for a Man to preach to the People they know not what, they are much the better for it indeed; Nay, 'tis a good way to keep the People in ignorance, and to lead them by the Nose at pleasure to the Devil.

Mr. Nay, thou art much in the right on't Jack; If the Popish Priests preach to the people in Latine only, or in some unknown tongue, they had as good not preach at all; And if so, the people are destitute of Faith and Religion, and consequently they stand up on the very brink of the precipice, and are every minuit in danger of being plung'd in a thousand Errours: They can neither be good Christians, nor good Subjects: Neither rightly dutiful to God, or Prince, because they are ignorant what the Law of God is, and how far those Laws in duty oblige them to an observance.

Jack. O but Master! I heard our Parson say that the Papists would Preach shortly in their own language, in down-right English; and That was worse than Preaching in Latine. O dear! he storm'd, and was stark mad at the very Thought on't; he swore if That were permitted, in Seven Years time there would not be seen a Protestant in England; And O dear! O lack a day! what a terrible thing would That be?

Mr. Thou art a Fool, and your Parson's another; It would be the best thing in the world perfectly to establish the Prot. Religion. to give the Papists leave to preach in their own Tongue. First, because their Priests have been so long out of England that they have forgot to speak their own Mother-tongue. Secondly, They have ne ver been us'd nor accusom'd to Preaching; that when they come into the Pulpit, they wou'd make such sorry work on't, they wou'd preach such Fustian stuff, that they wou'd become the subject of the peoples

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Peoples laughter & derision; and they wou'd be so far from bringing Profelites to them, that all Man-kind of Sense & Reason wou'd fly from them as from something that is Frightful and Terrible. *Thirdly*. They are an illiterate silly People, and there is not a Butcher, or a Cobler that sits whistling all the week under his Stall, but shall make a better Sermon than any Priest in the *Popish Religion*; Every little Mechanick can run them down at pleasure. This the *L.C.f. Scr.* tould some of them at their Tryals. Then you shall have them roaring for their *Popes Supremacy*, preaching up the *Deposing Power*, *Sedition*, *Rebellion*, and the Devil and all; For you know what Dr. *Sherl.* says in his Sermon he preach'd before the House of Commons, 'Tis impossible for a *Papist* to be Loyal; And these Priests are a rank sort of *Papists*, they poison the people with their *Doctrines*, and lead them to what Villanies they please. I am clearly to have them preach in their own Language, nothing like it to make them Odious.

Jack. But hark ye Mr. Wou'd this be Expedient to suffer people to preach Treason and Rebellion? Gods blest! This wou'd be enough to set us all together by the Ears.

Mr. Pish, nothing like it I tell thee, to bring them into an odium with the People, and to work their Ruin. This wou'd be an Expedient to Hang more of them than *Otes* and his *Popish Plot* did; Why, they should not make one slip, but up go their heels for't; so narrowly we would watch them, that if they made but one false step as to the *Doctrine of Loyalty*, but we wou'd turn them out of the way for't.

Jack. And I warrant ye we should have them ever and anon stepping out of the way. Adod I like this business mighty well.

Mr. Well then, dry thy Eye, and cheer up, for we shall have blessed Doings when this day comes; For we shall have such Balderdashing, such Interfering, such Paradoxes when they come to the points of *Transubstantiation*, *Praying to Saints*, *Praying for the Dead*, *Merit*, and *good Works*, the *Supremacy of the Pope*, the *Universality*, and *Infallibility of their Church*, its *Sanctity*, and *Miracles*; their *Purgatory*, their *Praying to Images*, their 7 *Sacraments*, &c. that it will make the people go mad to hear such Non-sense; Then they will be fully satisfy'd of all the Fopperies of the Ch. of *Rome*, and that all that we have preach'd to them against it, is most true.

Jack. Ods bobs Mr. you make me mery; And then you think Popery will not come in upon us, tho' the *Papists* should preach their hearts out:



Mr. No, no, 'tis impossible. Dost thou think that their Impostors, and foolish Fopperies can ever prevail against the light of the Gospel? no, be assur'd they shall never sham us out of our Religion.

Jack. Ay, but Mr. Mr. won't they beat us out on't? If once they come to beat me, or kill me, I shall never hold out; I shall presently cry out with our Brethren that run away at Philips-norton Fight; I'll be of your Religion, or any Religion, save but my Life.

Mr. Beat us didst thou say? How should they beat us out of our Religion? why, we are at least 1000 Protestants for one Papist, and dost thou believe that one Man can beat 1000? why, we do not live in Saul and David's days, where One slew 1000, and the other 10000.

Jack. Ay, ay, you talk; But supposing Dr. Otes's 40000 Pilgrims should appear, or all those formidable Armies that have been marching the Lord knows how long under-ground, should rise up against us, what wou'd become of us then? Do you think we should not all rise the next morning with our Throats cut? and then away goes Religion, and Life, and all at a blow. Good Lord bless us!

Mr. Away, away, thou talk'st madly; The Pilgrims are gone back to Spain long since, and the Armies under-ground are all vanish'd; Nay, some people begin to think there was never any such thing, that it was only a trick of the E. of Shaf. to gull the people, and make them do what he would have them; why, no body ever saw them but the Doctor.

Jack. None ever saw them but the Dr. Why I durst have sworn all the Drs. in England had seen them, they thumpt the Pulpits about, and beat the Cushion like mad, and preach'd up Dr. Otes's Narrative for a Truth as sacred as the very Gospel. O' my conscience, had you seen our Parson when he was gotten into the Popish-plot, how he star'd, and roar'd, he would have frighted you; I'm sure he did me. You wou'd have sworn he had had the whole Armies in his Eys: O dear! it makes me cry to think on't; And then yonder's the B—— there, I have forgot what they call him, he writ a Book in confirmation of Dr. Otes's Popish-plot; and now you tell me there's no such thing. Bless me! who must a body believe?

Mr. Prithee mistake me not, I do not say there was no such thing; But I say some people will not believe that the Papists had such a mighty Army under-ground; nor do I believe it: And therefore Jack, there is no fear of our being beat out of our Religion.

Jack. Well, but for all that you think us so secure in our Religion, I have heard some people say that the Papists are cunning people; and may

may persuade, Argue us, or Complement us (and I am sure the K. and the Crown will get nothing by it,) out of our Religion, if They be permitted to speak to the People in a Language they understand.

Mr. 'Tis impossible Jack; For the True Protestant Religion is grounded on such a solid unshaken Foundation, that it is never to be tumbled down. Let them Preach their Penance, Mortification of the Body, the subjecting of Flesh and Blood to the Spirit, the Sensitive part to the Rational; their Praying, Fasting, Obedience, Humility, Poverty, Chastity, Meekness, Modesty, Pardoning Offences, Love of one another; Praying for Enemies, doing good to those that persecute us, suffering persecution for Conscience sake, making holy Vows of Chastity, leaving the World, and all that we possess, to Consecrate ones self to Prayer, and the Service of God, &c. And we at the same time will Preach up Liberty, Liberty, sweet Liberty, as every Man shall do as he pleases, Interpret the Law of God as he pleases, make it speak what he would have it, and then Act accordingly: We will have no Fasting, no Good Works to be Meritorious, so 'tis no matter whether they be done or no. We will have no obliging the People to keep Lent, and other Fasting-days; We will have no Remembrances kept to put us in mind of the great Mysteries of the Life of Jesus and his Mother, and the rest of the Saints, for fear they should imitate them; We'll have no Sacred Vows observ'd; The Bishops and Ministers of the Church shall have Wives as well as other Men, that so the Church of the Lord may Increase and Multiply: We'll down with the  $\times$  of Christ, for fear the People should be put in mind of his Sufferings; We'll rail most strenuously against the Church of Rome, and call her the Whore of Babilon; We'll tell the People she's an Adulterated Idolatrous Church, &c. And then let them Preach on, and see what they will get by their Preaching; You'll see then who will gain the most Profelites, They, or We?

Jack. Evads, this will be pure; Let them Preach on say I, and so I'll tell our Mr. Parson next time I see him

Mr. Ay, ay, Jack, Let them Preach on, and I'll warrant thee we need not long be affraid of popery; They'll save us a labour too of railing against popery; for what need we cry out to the People, to bid them Beware, take heed of the Serpent, the Monster, when it appears to them in its own shape? I'll engage, as soon as ever the People see it, they will fly away from it, as if it were the Devil.

Jack. Ay but Mr. Suppose that they should preach to the people, that the Popish Religion is the old Religion; that it is the Religion that was



was establish'd by Jesus Christ, and his Apostles; that it is That only that is call'd the Holy, Apostolical, Catholick Church.

Mr. Nay if they come to That once, they are gone. Let Us alone for Antiquity; Why we will prove our Protestant Religion to have been a Thousand years before Christ's time: Nay, if that be not old enough, we will prove it as plain as the Nose of your Face, that our Religion came out of Noah's Ark, and is as old as the Deluge; I'll secure thee Jack our Religion shall want no years.

Jack. Hold a little good Mr. I am affraid you make her too old now; Adod she'll be full of Wrinkles, Ugly, and no body will care for her.

Mr. No, no, as old as she is I can make her young again, and Beautiful too at pleasure: 'Tis but giving her the Somersets, and she's not above 150 years old, a lovely Virgin begot by Martin Luther, upon one of the Daughters of Cham.

Jack. This is not She Mr. that Paul speaks of to the Ephesians? A delicate fine Spouse, that Christ gave himself for, cleansing her by the Laver of Water, in the Word, that he might present her to himself a glorious Church, not having Spot or Wrinkle, but that she might be Holy, and Untotted.

Mr. Yes, This is she, the very same, she was never debauch'd, but ever immaculate.

Jack. Say you so Mr. adod I warrant she's Right then. But hark ye, Mr. Mr. I met with a Papist the other day, adod he ask'd me some peevish Questions, and I could not Answer them.

Mr. Why, what were they Jack?

Jack. Why, he prov'd to me that the People of God were never without a Sacrifice; And he ask'd me, if we were the true Believers, where was our Sacrifice? And adod I did not know what to say to him. Then he ask'd me if I could say the Apostles Creed? And I thought I was a little too old to be Catechiz'd, so I bid him go look; perhaps I cou'd, perhaps I cou'd not, what then? Then he comes over me, and asks me why I said every day, I Believe in the Holy Catholick Church? when it was plain I Believ'd no such thing, since I own'd my self a Protester against it; Adod I was out of Pocket there again. Then he asks me whether our Church only was that Holy Church mention'd in the Creed? whether I T, and no other had the Custody of Gods holy Laws, holy Sacraments, holy Sacrifices? Whether it was Holy in its Ceremonies, and Holy in its Observances? And I answer'd him, Yes. Then he comes over me again, and must needs know if all the Christians since Christ's time who were not in Communion with the Protestant Church, were Damn'd? And I told him No. We had more Charity than the Papists; We Believ'd that a man might be sav'd in any Religion; Turks, Jews and Infidels, though they did not believe in Jesus Christ: And then he fell a Laughing, and ask'd me why my Charity did not extend a little farther, and believe that the Devils should be sav'd too; and I was inclin'd to believe that too.

Mr. Nay then Jack thou hadst gone too far; But was this all he ask'd thee?

Jack. No, no; he ask'd me who call'd the first Four General Councils, and who Presided in them? And I answer'd him, How should I know. I was not so good a Schollard; what did he ask me those plaguy hard Questions for? I told him I warrant You could tell him.

Mr. Ay Jack so I cou'd; But I'll secure thee he never dare ask me any of those hard Questions as thou wast them; If he did, I wou'd quickly lay him on his back.

Jack. But O Dear! What do you think he told me? He is certainly the Lying'st Fellow in the world; He said that Pope Sylvester subscrib'd the first Council of Nice in the year of our Lord 325, and that this Sylvester was a Papist; Ay, and that all the 328 Fathers in that Council, were all of his Religion; And that They Condemn'd Arrius for a Heretik. Then

Then that Pope Damasus (I think he call'd him) presided in the Council of Constantinople; And that He, and those 150 Fathers who sat there, were all rank Papists. This was in the Year of Christ 381, and here Macedonius was Condemn'd. Then that Pope Celestin Presided in the Council of Ephesus, where all the Fathers there, 200 in number) were of the Popes Religion. And that Pope Leo Presided in the Council of Calcedon, where there were 660 Fathers of his Religion, all Papists; and here Euteches was Condemn'd for a Heretick. Was not this a strange Impudent Lying Fellow now, to say all this, when I know they were all Protestants.

Mr. Nay. Now thou'rt out Jack; who ever heard of a Protestant Pope man? What dost thou intend to make of the Protestant Religion at this rate?

Jack. Nay, I know not what to make on't, nor nobody else if there be this ado. YOU tell me One thing, and our Parson tells me another: I am sure I have heard him say that they were all Protestants; not Sham-protestants, but True Protestants.

Mr. He did it but to laugh at thee; He thought he could make Thee believe any thing. But did the Popish Gentleman say any thing more to thee?

Jack. More, Ay, He said so much he has almost made me Distracted; And unless You can cure me, I shall go mad. He ask'd me what Church it was that call'd the 18 General Councils to Decide Matters of Faith? Was it the Protestant Church that was Cemented with the Blood of above Eleven Millions of Martyrs, who Dy'd professing the Faith of Christ? Was it That Church which was supported by those great Pillars, and Oracles of Truth, a St. Augustine, a St. Ambrose, a St. Hierom, a St. Gregery, a St. Thomas, and the rest of a numberless number of Holy Fathers? Is it That Church only that hath prov'd her Holiness by Infinites of Miracles? Is it She that hath converted Nations from Idolatry and Paganism, to be Professors of the True Faith, and the Disciples of Jesus Christ? Is This Protestant Religion That which in all Ages has Preach'd and Practis'd the Councils of Evangelical Perfection? As of Selling all we Possess, and giving all to the Poor; and taking up our Cross to follow Christ; Of leaving Father, Mother, Brothers, Sisters, Wife, and all things, for the Love of God? If it be here that we shall find a St. Paul the first Hermit, a St. Anthony, a St. Macharius, a St. Hillarian, a St. Hierom, a St. Mary of Egypt, and Infinite others, who have voluntarily gone forth into the Desarts, there to do Pennance, and tread the Footsteps of the Saviour of the World, with Patience and Perseverance, carrying the Cross after their Master Jesus? To tell you the Truth Mr. all this he gave me in Writing, and bid me consider on't: And I Read it, and Read it, till I got it without-book; And pray Master tell me what You think of these Queries? Was the Protestant Church This same Church, or no? I bouldy said it was; and He laugh'd at me, and bid me ask You, and You would dispatch me better things; Come, what say You Mr?

Master. Why Jack, To be Ingenious with thee, It was the Church of Rome which did all this. It was That Church, and no other that call'd all the Councils; All the Anient Fathers were all Roman Catholics; All the Martyrs were of that Faith; And all those which are Sainted in the Kalender, were of that Communion. All Nations were Converted to the Faith by Them, 'tis true, and they are the only People who pretend to Miracles, or to observe the Councils of Evangelical Perfection. But what then, we did not like their ways; And since we have found out an easier way to Heaven, what signifies all these Queries?

Jack. Then You are sure our way to Heaven is the Easier, and the Better too, Is it not?

Mr. Most undoubtedly, That way which is the Easier, is the Better; Is it not better to have a Heaven here, and another hereafter; than a Purgatory here, and a Heaven hereafter; Two goods (*ceteris paribus*,) are always better than one. Now the Papists preach to the people, that there is no way to Heaven, but by the ways of Pennance; as Fasting and Praying, and other Mortifications and Austerities



of the Body. They make the way to Heaven, a Thorny rugged way; and this will never please the People. We will shew them a way to Heaven through a Paradise of Pleasures here; And then I'll secure thee the Protestant Religion shall never fall, let the Papists preach their hearts out. Some hot-headed Zealors, it may be, they may draw to them; but I defy them to bring over any man of Sense.

Jack. *Nay, but Master, Why shou'd they be permitted to bring over any at all? Why are not their mouths stop'd, as they us'd to be? And why shou'd they not be Lash'd, and Swing'd about now, as formerly? I am sure our Parson says, if That be not done, there will be no keeping Popery out of England.*

Mr. Fear not Jack; So long as we have Truth, and the Light of the Gospel on our side, all the Popes in Christendom shall never prevail against us. But to have them Swing'd away now, as formerly, would be a little too unreasonable: Should a Pagan King give the Christians within his Dominions, the free Exercise of their Religion, it would be a Favour beyond their hoping for: But to imagine that he should pull down the Temples of his own Gods, or put those of his own Religion to the Torture, and Sword, wou'd be a Thought beyond the degree of Madness. But for a Christian Prince to play the Tyrant over his own People, who Worship the same Eternal God, and after the same manner; wou'd be a thing so Barbarous, not to be parallel'd in Story; No, no, by no means Jack, I have not a Thought of that.

Jack. *Al, but Mr. Did not the King promise to Defend the Protestant Religion as Establish'd by Law? And you know He is a Man of his Word.*

Mr. He is so; And I doubt not but He will be as good as his promise. But what dost thou think the King meant by Defending the Protestant Religion? Thou dost not expect that He shou'd go into the Pulpit, and Preach, and Dispute for us? Nor wou'd you have him rip up the Bellies, Unbelov'd and tear out the very Hearts of other Christians who will not be of her Communion. Methinks 'tis a very Unchristian-like way of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, flap dash to knock every mans brains out who cannot believe as much as I do. Let Men be of what Religion they please, I cannot think this Expedient of Fire and Slaughter any Christian-like way of proceeding, to bring men to the light of Faith, and the true knowledge of God. 'Tis a monstrous un-God-like way of frightening and beating men into a Religion; As the Duke of B. says, 'Tis very preposterous, Because I am not so quick-witted, cannot understand so much as you do, or as much as you wou'd have me, presently you will take a Hammer, or an Axe to me. Come Jack, fear not, That Religion is grounded on a weak Foundation, that cannot Support and Defend itself by the same Weapons and Arms that Jesus and his Twelve Apostles first establish'd the Gospels, against all the Persecutions, and Tyranny of *Tiberius, Nero, Dioclesian*, and all persecuting Tyrants whatsoever; and that is by a Zealous preaching of the Gospels. And so long as the King gives us leave to do that, and good Benefices for so doing, we are safe, Fear not; So rest contented, and trouble not thy head with *Papery*. I have a little Business now Jack, so Farewel till we meet again.

**F I N I S.**